

Please **AMEND** the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **CANCEL** claims 115 – 123 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants intend to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuing application.

Please **SUBSTITUTE** the following claims for the pending claims of the same number. The claims herein amended are labeled as such and presented in bold-faced type.

105. (AMENDED) A method of conducting a distributed electronic tournament for a plurality of players, comprising:

exchanging information between a central controller and a player located remotely from the central controller, the information (i) being exchanged while the player plays a game in the tournament and (ii) influencing game play; and

storing in a database player information associated with the player, the stored player information being available for use in a subsequent tournament to influence game play of the subsequent tournament while the player is playing a subsequent game in the subsequent tournament.

106. The method of claim 105, wherein the stored player information comprises at least one of: (i) a player name, (ii) a player address, (iii) a player age, (iv) a player sex, (v) a player preference, (vi) billing information, (vii) a tournament format, (viii) a start time, (ix) a stop time, (x) opponent information, and (xi) a language.

107. The method of claim 105, wherein the game comprises a game of skill.

**108. The method of claim 105, further comprising:
arranging for the player to provide payment of an entry fee.**